

Red River Gorge

Volume 5, Issue 1 – February, March, April 2013

Upcoming Events

www.fs.usda.gov/dbnf



Monday March 11
Gladie Center
Expanded Hours

9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
7 days / week



Sat. March 23
Building for
Bluebirds

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Gladie Center



Sat. April 6
Trees
of Times Past

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Gladie Center



Sat. April 13
Earth Day with
Woodsy Owl

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Gladie Center



Sat. April 20
Wildflowers
in your Lunchbox*

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Gladie Center

*Free event at Gladie complements Wildflower Weekend at Natural Bridge State Park: 606-663-2214

Recreational Opportunities

Paddle the Red!

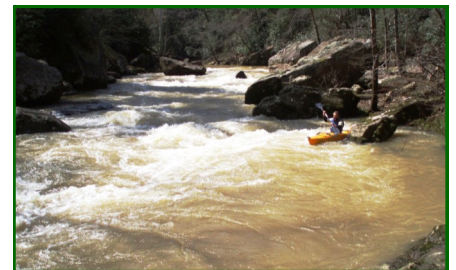
Sunshine, warm weather, and high water makes spring the perfect season to canoe or kayak the Red River. The Red River offers a diverse landscape showcasing mature forested stands of Eastern Hemlock, dense thickets of Rhododendron, exposed sandstone cliffs, and unique geological formations. 19.4 miles of the Red River is designated a federal Wild and Scenic River. It is the only Wild and Scenic River in Kentucky. Whether you're an expert or beginner, the Red River provides a great paddling experience for anybody.



Middle and Lower Red River

Most visitors prefer to float downstream from the Copperas Creek Canoe launch, located near the KY 715 bridge. This mostly class I section is great for beginners, but also provides enough sandbars, riffles, and small ledges to make paddling interesting for everyone. This 10.5 mile section takes about 6 hours to complete and averages 55°F-60°F water temperature in April. The Wild and Scenic River designation ends at the Schoolhouse Branch confluence. Local businesses provide rentals and shuttle services.

The upper Red River is a 10.8-mile section that is considered one of the most challenging stretches of whitewater in the southeastern United States. Beginning at the Big Branch Canoe Launch near KY 746, the river twists through a series of Class III rapids. During very high water, this section is very dangerous. Due to the remote location within the Clifty Wilderness, rescues and walk-outs are exceedingly difficult. The upper Red River should only be attempted by expert paddlers. The entire run takes about 6 hours.



Upper Red River

A public meeting regarding water quality within the Red River watershed will be held February 19 at 6 pm. The meeting will be located at the Wolfe County Extension Office in Campton. For more details, contact Tessa Edelen at tessa@kwalliance.org, (502) 589-8008, or visit <http://www.kwalliance.org/redrivergorge>.

News and Updates

Gladie Cabin Project Update

The first phase of the Gladie Cabin roofing project is nearly completed. Of the 2,000 shakes needed, 1,700 have been made. Forest Service retirees headed by Rex Mann and the late Dick Wengert crafted about 1,100. Forest Service staff also added to the total during a work day in November. On January 12th, the Red River Gorge Trail Crew, led by Charlie Rowe, contributed 400 to the count. Come February, Forest Service retirees and the Red River Gorge Trail Crew will team up to finish the remaining shakes.

In April, the Frenchburg Job Corps will remove the current roof. HistoriCorps will lead the installation of the new shingles in May.



Rex Mann crafting shakes.



RRGTC finishing shakes.

Proposed Fee Change

The Daniel Boone National Forest has proposed a change to the winter use fee at Koomer Ridge Campground. The proposed change would increase the nightly fee to \$10.00 from November to mid-April. The current rate is \$7.00 per night. The proposed change would take effect beginning November, 2013. Interagency Senior and Access Passes will continue to be honored.

From mid-April to November, Koomer Ridge is operated by Thousand Trails concession. During this season, fees are set by the concessionaire.

Please contact the Cumberland Ranger District at 606-663-8100 for additional information or to make a comment concerning this proposal.

Meet the Forest Service

Newest Addition

Denise Carpenter is the latest addition to the Red River Gorge team. She transferred here in June of 2012 to work as a Backcountry Ranger. Her background is in Outdoor Recreation and Natural Resources with a Minor in Geography. Denise is tasked with campsite rehabilitation and development, trail maintenance, fire suppression, sign maintenance, wilderness management, visitor education, and compliance checks as a Forest Protection Officer.



Denise Carpenter, Backcountry Ranger; "Enjoys working and helping the Backcountry Ranger Interns gain experience in managing the forest and educating the public on how to keep their public lands clean and protected for years to come."

In the past, she has worked as a Wilderness Ranger and Administrative Support Clerk for the Custer National Forest in Montana. She also worked on the Ozark National Forest in Arkansas performing fire suppression, boundary surveys, and guiding wild cave tours. Prior to her work in Montana and Arkansas, Denise began her Forest Service career as a Backcountry Ranger Intern in the Red River Gorge during the summer of 2007.

If you meet Denise, be sure to say hello and ask her any Gorge related questions you may have!

Contact Us

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U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Southern Region